

Icelandic Festival awards contract for Gimli Harbourfront Visioning Process to HTFC Planning and Design

Community to be engaged in planning and building project

December 10, 2018. Gimli. The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba (IFM) is pleased to announce that the landscape architecture firm, HTFC Planning & Design, will lead an inclusive planning process to develop the master plan for Phase Two of Viking Park.

The consultative process, and the development of Phase Two of Viking Park are possible thanks to a grant awarded to the IFM through the New Building Canada - Small Communities Fund (SCF). This fund supports priority public infrastructure projects in communities with fewer than 100,000 residents across Canada. Canada and Manitoba approved \$300,000 each towards the project, with a matching contribution required from IFM.

HTFC was chosen by a steering committee made up of the IFM and its Viking Park Campaign Cabinet, the RM of Gimli, the Betel Home Foundation, the Betel Heritage Foundation, the Gimli Harbour Authority and the Gimli Yacht Club. The firm edged out two other competitors because of its experience working in Gimli, and the community's positive response to Phase One of Viking Park. The IFM opened Viking Park Phase One in 2017 and earned a 92 per cent approval rating from the community.

The consultative process for Phase Two will begin this month, and will involve the steering committee, key stakeholders, residents, cottagers and tourists. One-on-one meetings will be combined with public engagement campaigns to enable the community to imagine the possibilities of a revitalized south harbourfront. For example, a postcard campaign will invite people to complete the sentence: "My Gimli South Harbourfront includes ..." All of these outreach methods will result in a conceptual plan that will be presented to the community for feedback during an open house in early Spring 2019.

A key focus of the plan will be to determine how to develop public areas and pathways that integrate the needs of a working harbour, safe walking and biking trails, shoreline re-vegetation, cultural history interpretation, active water access and other features to be envisioned by the community. The area considered, as per the requirements of the SCF grant, will extend from the Viking Park and provide a continuous pathway from the harbour to the park and/or into the south end of town.

In order to accomplish this plan, the IFM will continue fundraising efforts for Viking Park. Garden Markers and Settlement Markers in the existing Viking Park are an opportunity to recognize your family or bestow a dedication to a milestone in your life or the life of a loved one. Pathway stones also provide an opportunity for recognition with a donation of \$125.00, \$550.00 or \$1,250.00. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Please contact Kristine Sigurdson at the Icelandic Festival office in Gimli at 94 1st Ave for more information. Telephone: 204-642-7417 or kristine@icelandicfestival.com.

Quotes

“I am pleased to see work progressing on this exciting project for the community of Gimli. The Government of Canada is proud to support the development of Viking Park, which will create a dynamic new outdoor space for residents while preserving the unique history and heritage of this community for generations to come.”

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

“Awarding the contract for the development of Phase Two of Viking Park is another benchmark for this project that highlights continued improvements to enhance culture, tourism, and recreation in Gimli. Through the Small Communities Fund, our Government is delivering on support for community infrastructure that will build future success towards local economic development.”

Jeff Wharton, Minister of Municipal Relations

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Contact: Kristine Sigurdson 204-894-0653